

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
PO Box 193766
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



CONTACT:

Stanley P. Stephenson (415) 975-4373
Nancy A. Treadwell (415) 975-4403
Internet address: <http://stats.bls.gov/ro9news.htm>
Fax-On-Demand (415) 975-4567 Code: #9130

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HONOLULU CONSUMER PRICES UP 0.8 PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2001—1.3 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Honolulu metropolitan area advanced 0.8 percent in the first half of 2001 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said compared to the same period a year ago, prices rose 1.3 percent. The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 178.1 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2001. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$178.10 during the past six months. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

During the first six months of 2001, five of the eight major expenditure categories advanced while three posted declines. Higher prices in transportation and food and beverages dominated the rise in overall prices for this period. Declines in the apparel and education and communication indexes slightly offset the increase in the all items index.

The index for food and beverages increased 2.6 percent in the first six months of 2001, following a decline of 0.8 percent during the second half of 2000. During the recent six-month period, grocery prices, as represented by the food at home index, advanced 4.3 percent and posted the largest percentage gain of all published categories during that period. The cost of dining out rose 1.1 percent while prices paid for alcoholic beverages increased 1.8 percent during the same period. Compared to a year ago, grocery prices are up 2.6 percent, the cost of dining out increased 1.3 percent, and alcoholic beverages advanced 1.8 percent. Further, the overall food and beverages' index rose 1.7 percent since the first half of 2000.

The overall transportation index advanced 2.6 percent in the last six months, and measured 4.9 percent higher than a year ago. The private transportation index advanced 1.9 and 4.4 percent for the respective periods. Gasoline prices rose 2.4 percent in the first half of 2001, following a 10.1 percent jump during the previous six-month period. Consumers paid 12.7 percent more for gasoline than they did in the first half of 2000.

The index for housing edged up 0.2 percent during the recent six-month period and measured a gain of 0.8 percent over the year. For the same periods, the shelter component advanced 0.3 and 0.6

percent, respectively. The household furnishings and operations index advanced 1.6 percent over the past six months and rose 2.4 percent during the recent 12-month period. The index for household fuels and utilities posted a 1.8 percent decline for the first half of 2001, helping to moderate the increases within the housing index. Nevertheless, household fuels and utilities measured a gain of 1.9 percent from the same period a year ago.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index, which includes tobacco and smoking products, rose 2.0 percent during the first-half of 2001. Over the year, the index advanced 3.6 percent.

The medical care index moved up 0.9 percent during the recent six-month period, and is 4.3 percent higher than last year's level.

During the first half of 2001, the education and communication index declined 2.0 percent and provided the strongest downward pressure to the all items index. Over the year, the education and communication category decreased 3.5 percent.

Apparel prices declined 2.8 percent during the past six months. The apparel index has posted decreases for the last three years. Compared to a year ago, the apparel index declined 4.6 percent.

The index for recreation moved down 0.5 percent in the first half of 2001, matching the decrease of the previous six-month period. The index measured 1.0 percent less than a year ago.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Honolulu, HI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from-	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Expenditure category					
All items	175.9	176.7	178.1	1.3	0.8
All items (October 1967=100)	484.3	486.5	490.4	-	-
Food and beverages	165.5	164.1	168.3	1.7	2.6
Food	165.6	164.0	168.3	1.6	2.6
Food at home	168.2	165.5	172.6	2.6	4.3
Food away from home	159.8	160.2	161.9	1.3	1.1
Alcoholic beverages	163.9	163.9	166.9	1.8	1.8
Housing	177.3	178.5	178.8	0.8	0.2
Shelter	191.6	192.1	192.7	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence	180.0	180.5	181.0	0.6	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1)	196.1	196.5	196.9	0.4	0.2
Fuels and utilities	144.7	150.2	147.5	1.9	-1.8
Fuels	127.6	133.9	130.4	2.2	-2.6
Gas (piped) and electricity	126.8	132.7	129.4	2.1	-2.5
Electricity	126.2	132.0	128.6	1.9	-2.6
Utility natural gas service	123.4	130.2	127.9	3.6	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations	151.7	153.0	155.4	2.4	1.6
Apparel	104.5	102.6	99.7	-4.6	-2.8
Transportation	167.7	171.5	176.0	4.9	2.6
Private transportation	164.9	169.0	172.2	4.4	1.9
Motor fuel	134.9	148.7	152.0	12.7	2.2
Gasoline (all types)	137.9	151.8	155.4	12.7	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular (2).....	144.6	158.9	162.6	12.4	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3).....	108.6	120.4	123.3	13.5	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium (2).....	126.1	139.3	142.4	12.9	2.2
Medical care	235.9	243.8	246.1	4.3	0.9
Recreation (4).....	103.1	102.6	102.1	-1.0	-0.5
Education and communication (4).....	107.3	105.6	103.5	-3.5	-2.0
Other goods and services	277.5	281.9	287.5	3.6	2.0

See footnotes at end of table.

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Commodity and service group					
All items	175.9	176.7	178.1	1.3	0.8
Commodities	150.4	150.3	152.5	1.4	1.5
Commodities less food and beverages	138.5	139.4	140.0	1.1	0.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	144.5	147.7	148.5	2.8	0.5
Durables	129.6	127.4	128.1	-1.2	0.5
Services	198.3	199.9	200.6	1.2	0.4
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	172.7	173.3	174.6	1.1	0.8
All items less shelter	170.1	171.0	172.8	1.6	1.1
Commodities less food	139.7	140.5	141.2	1.1	0.5
Nondurables	156.2	156.8	159.5	2.1	1.7
Nondurables less food	145.8	148.8	149.6	2.6	0.5
Services less rent of shelter (1)	209.0	211.8	212.9	1.9	0.5
Services less medical care services	194.9	196.1	196.7	0.9	0.3
Energy	132.1	141.8	141.4	7.0	-0.3
All items less energy	180.6	180.8	182.4	1.0	0.9
All items less food and energy	184.7	185.5	186.3	0.9	0.4

1 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

3 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.